

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00559 060934Z

21/60

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2932

S E C R E T LUSAKA 559

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REF OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR ZA

SUBJECT: KAUNDA REQUEST FOR ARMS; OUTLOOK FOR WAR IN RHODESIA

REF: STATE 054366

1. IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL AT 2030 MARCH 5
I PHONED CHONA AT HIS HOME AND WENT OVER TO REQUEST APPOINTMENT
WITH KAUNDA, INDICATING NATURE OF SUBJECT. CHONA PROMPTLY WENT
TO PHONE, PRESUMABLY CALLED KAUNDA AND RETURNED TO ADVISE THAT
A TIME FOR MEETING WITHIN DEADLINE OF A.M. MARCH 6 WOULD
BE CONFIRMED IN MORNING.

2. CHONA HAS BEEN AILING OVER PAST WEEK AND AT HOME
LAST FEW DAYS FROM WHAT APPEARS TO BE EXCESSIVE PRESSURE AND
FATIGUE. HE SEEMED TO BE UNDER MILD SEDATION AND WAS
SOMEWHAT FORCED IN TRYING TO STRIKE MILITANT POSE IN
LINKING ZAMBIA WITH HIGH COMMAND OF ANC ARMY AND ESCALATING
GUERRILLA ATTACK NOW IN PROGRESS IN RHODESIA. SAID "WE
PREDICTED THIS VIOLENCE; WE PLANNED FOR THE ARMED STRUGGLE LAST
SEPTEMBER, ARE WELL-EQUIPPED AND WILL SHOOT DOWN MORE OF
SMITH'S PLANES AND OVER-RUN WHITE SETTLER FARMS; GUARANTEES
WILL NOT ARISE; IT WILL ALL BE SETTLED THAT WAY. SOUTHERN
AFRICA WFL NOT BE THE SAME AGAIN AND THE SOVIETS WILL BE THE
VICTORS."

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3. CHONA SAID NOW WAS NOT RPT NOT THE TIME (A DIRECT WARNING TO

THE US) TO CONDEMN AGGRESSION, RATHER IT WAS THE TIME FOR
USG TO TALK TOUGH AND "ON TARGET" DIRECTLY TO SMITH AND TELL HIM
TO STOP NOW.

4. UNDERSTAND FROM MY FRENCH AND DUTCH COLLEAGUES THAT
CHONA PERSONALLY APPEALED TO THEM TO HAVE THEIR COUNTRIES
INDIVIDUALLY AND EC AS WHOLE PETITION SOUTH AFRICAN PM
VORSTER AND SMITH DIRECTLY TO BRING RHODESIAN LEADER TO HIS
SENSES AND SETTLE PEACEFULLY. WHILE CHONA TOLD OTHER DIPLOMATS
THAT MARCH 5 WAS THE DEADLINE, HE TOLD ME TONIGHT THAT SMITH
HAD ONLY UNTIL NEXT WEDNESDAY MARCH 10 TO DO SOMETHING. CHONA
WOULD NOT EXPLAIN SIGNIFICANCE OF DATE BUT THERE WAS FAINTEST
HINT OF MIG AIR ATTACK. CHONA DID NOT ANSWER WHEN I ASKED IF
MIG'S WOULD BE COMING FROM ANGOLA.

5. COMMENT: CHONA APPEARED BE TIRED AND SPEAKING FOR DRAMATIC
EFFECT. I HOPE MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT TOMORROW MORNING
WILL THROW MORE LIGHT ON PRESENT STATE OF ZAMBIAN THINKING
ABOUT RHODESIA.
WILKOWSKI

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LUSAKA00559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760086-0261
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760391/aaaadcdd.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 54366
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUL 2004 by saccheem>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KAUNDA REQUEST FOR ARMS; OUTLOOK FOR WAR IN RHODESIA
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, (KAUNDA, KENNETH D), (CHONA, MARK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006